

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 STR-04 ACDA-07 XMB-02 OPIC-03 IGA-02 /113 W
-----262052Z 130751 /41

R 261050Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8575
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XY, FR, EAD

SUBJECT: DAKAR FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE

REF: DAKAR 2814 AND 2810

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1. OCAM SECRETARY GENERAL MOUTIA WHO PARTICIPATED IN FRANCO-
AFRICAN CONFERENCE HAS GIVEN US ONE INTERESTING SIDELIGHT
ON FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE.
ACCORDING TO MOUTIA AT A CLOSED-DOOR SESSION GISCARD MADE
A STRONG APPEAL TO AFRICANS NOT TO PUSH FOR HIGHER COMMODITY
PRICES. GISCARD REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT SUPPLIES OF MOST
INTERNATIONAL COMMODITIES WERE DOMINATED BY THE US & USSR.

HENCE ANY INCREASE IN PRICES WOULD BENEFIT SUPERPOWERS MORE THAN AFRICANS. MOUTIA SAID THAT GISCARD'S VIEWS DID NOT RECEIVE UNIVERSALLY WARM WELCOME AS SOME AFRICANS SAW HIS ARGUMENT AS AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT EUROPEAN AND FRENCH ECONOMIES FROM IMPACT OF FUTURE COMMODITY PRICE INCREASES. SOME AFRICANS, SUCH AS HOUPHOUET APPARENTLY WERE ALSO NOT HAPPY WITH GISCARD'S DESIRE TO SET EUROPE OFF AGAINST US AND USSR.

2. MOUTIA ALSO COMMENTED THAT GISCARD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT EXTENT OF AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IVORY COAST, AGAIN, ACCORDING TO MOUTIA, HOUPHOUET BRISTLED AND INSISTED THAT AMERICAN CAPITAL WAS ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD BE WELCOME AS LONG AS NO POLITICAL STRINGS WERE ATTACHED.

3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, MOUTIA NOTED THAT GISCARD'S ASSURANCES THAT FRANCE WOULD DEFEND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES IRRESPECTIVE OF POLITICAL SYSTEM WERE WELL-RECEIVED. GISCARD APPARENTLY QUALIFIED HIS ASSURANCES BY STATING THAT FRENCH MILITARY SUPPORT WOULD ONLY BE AVAILABLE WHERE THERE WAS A SPECIFIC BILATERAL AGREEMENT. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT SEEN TO BE SERIOUSLY LIMITING BY AFRICAN STATES.
QUAINTON

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